



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
SURFACE WARFARE OFFICERS SCHOOL COMMAND
446 CUSHING ROAD
NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02841-1209
[HTTPS://WWW.NETC.NAVY.MIL/CENTERS/SWOS](https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/swos)

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From: Director, Command at Sea Department, Surface Warfare Officers School
Command

To: MCO Students

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD FOR THE MAJOR COMMAND COURSE

1. Congratulations on your selection and slating for Major Command. Our mission here at SWOS is to provide you with the most relevant and complete instruction possible to prepare you for your next assignment.

2. During your three week stay, the course is primarily focused on Naval Seamanship and Shiphandling (NSS). You will receive several lessons on Bridge Resource Management, six hours of classroom Rules of the Road instruction, several hours of shiphandling instruction and fourteen hours of simulator time. You will be required to pass a Rules of the Road exam and you will conduct a one hour COVE shiphandling assessment. For the COVE session, the instructors have extensive experience in either the merchant fleet, U.S. Navy, or both. In preparation for your NSS training, I recommend you read through the NAVDORM (CNSP/CNAP/CNSL/CNAL Instruction 3530.4D), Navigation Rules & Regulations Handbook, and Rules of the Road Test bank. They are located in the [SWOS Learning Site on NKO](#). Some other useful links are [USCG Nav Center](#), [Nav Rules Online](#), www.raynorshyn.com, and www.USCGQ.com.

3. Your Maritime Warfare training at SWOS will be somewhat limited, due primarily to your short stay. We will provide you with recommended reading, suggested websites to review, and complete access to the Maritime Warfare Directorate (N73) staff led by CDR Monika Stoker for any questions you might have. You will complete the two-day Commanding Officer Anti-Terrorism (COAT) course and have several guest speakers. Additionally, there will be some level of discussion on warfare commander duties and we typically have guest speakers from Tactical Training Group LANT/PAC and CSG 4/15 who speak to best practices for integrated training events you will see in the fleet.

4. Each major command course is tailored to maximize the training value for the students. We work to adjust the schedule to include specialized lessons as appropriate for the mix of students that make-up each class. As applicable these lessons will include ISIC Best Practices, Overviews of Cruiser/DDG/LPD/Steam Engineering, Warfare Commander duties, Amphibious Operations, SWOS LCS training facilities tours, Mentor Sessions, and various guest speakers to include PERS 41 and the CHO's Strategic Studies Group. If there is anything you are specifically interested in or feel you need training on, please provide that information to the SWOS staff ahead of time, so that we can arrange training for you. (POC information is below.)

5. While here at SWOS, you and your classmates will be the senior class on-deck and have ample opportunity to mentor other students. Your class will overlap with a Surface Commanders Course (SCC), up to three Department Head Classes, and typically an Advanced Division Officer Course (ADOC) class. There is time set aside in the schedule to mentor XO/CO Fleet-Up students in the current SCC class.

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD THE MAJOR COMMAND COURSE

6. On the [SWOS website](#) and the [SWOS Learning Site on NKO](#) you will find additional course information including the syllabus, general reporting information, projected schedule and recommended reading. During the course, you will be provided with SIPR and NIPR computer access via NETC's TRANET. Some websites are inaccessible through TRANET (such as personal e-mail accounts), but all course requirements are supported. If you have an existing NMCI account, there are NMCI workstations available for your use.

7. The course is held in Burke Hall Room B317. Please arrive NLT 0730 on the first day of class for the start of the Commanding Officers Anti-Terrorism Course. Portable electronic devices (including cellular phones) are not permitted on the second and third deck of Burke Hall. There are lockers available behind the Quarterdeck of Burke Hall to stow your devices while in class. Uniform of the day for staff and students is Service Khakis. SWOS has the ability to take both quarterdeck and official record photos if you need them, so please bring a seasonal service dress uniform if you would like to have an official photo taken.

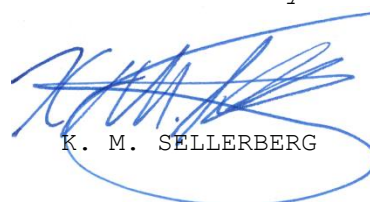
8. Your lodging in Newport is no longer pre-arranged by SWOS. Please call (401) 841 - 7900 in order to book government quarters (NGIS/The Chalet). If you plan to bring your family, there are limitations to dependent lodging at NGIS and the Chalet on base. In most cases, servicemembers who bring their families or pets (total persons exceeding 3) will need to make arrangements at the [Navy Lodge](#). If applicable, you will be responsible for paying the per-diem difference for a family stay at the Navy Lodge vice an individual stay at the BOQ. Please note that you will receive the Partial Meal Rate while you are here at SWOS.

9. Your orders will be endorsed on the first day by SWOS staff, so there is no need for the quarterdeck to stamp your orders upon arrival. To make the check-in process as simple as possible, bring the following documentation with you for the first day of the course:

- a. Original Orders
- b. Page 2
- c. SGLI
- d. DoD Cyber Awareness Challenge Ver. 2 Certificate of Completion (within one calendar year of your graduation date)

10. prior to arrival is LT Ryan P. Griffith, USN ryan.p.griffith@navy.mil; DSN: 841-4981, COMM: 401-841-4981. You may also contact me directly at kurt.sellerberg@navy.mil or 401-841-4976.

11. Do not hesitate to contact my staff with any questions, concerns or special considerations you may have. We look forward to your arrival in Newport!



K. M. SELLERBERG